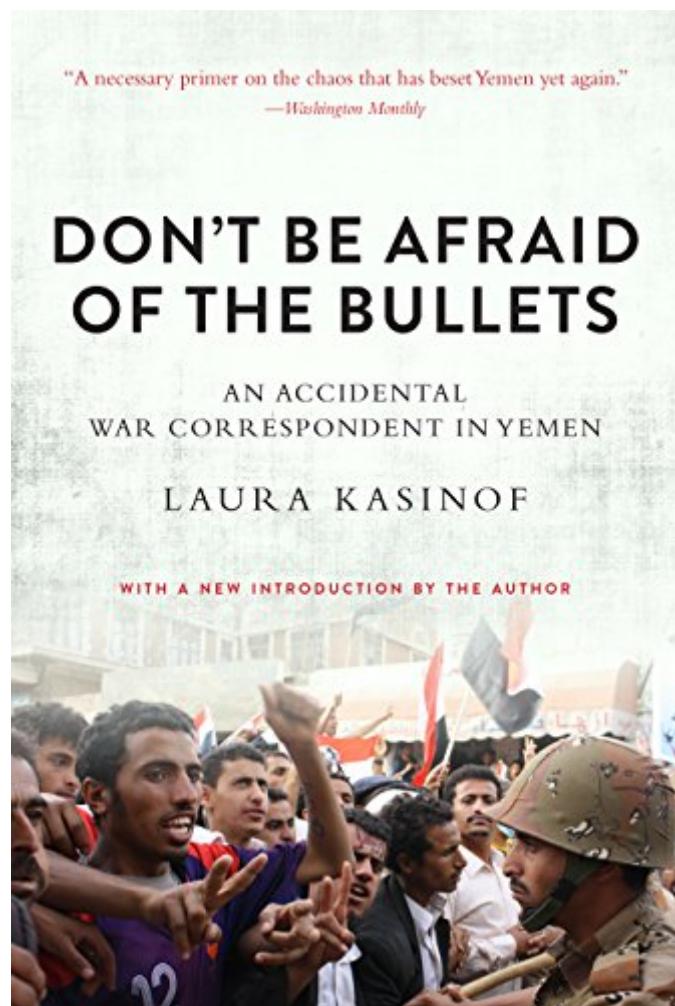


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Don't Be Afraid Of The Bullets: An Accidental War Correspondent In Yemen



Synopsis

Laura Kasinof studied Arabic in college and moved to Yemen a few years later; after a friend at a late-night party in Washington, DC, recommended the country as a good place to work as a freelance journalist. When she first moved to the capital city of Sanaa in 2009, she was the only American reporter based in the country. She quickly fell in love with Yemen's people and culture, and even found herself the star of a local TV soap opera. When antigovernment protests broke out in Yemen in 2011, part of the revolts sweeping the Arab world at the time, she contacted the New York Times to see if she could cover the rapidly unfolding events for the newspaper. Laura never planned to be a war correspondent, but found herself in the middle of brutal government attacks on peaceful protesters. As foreign reporters were rounded up and shipped out of the country, Laura managed to elude the authorities but found herself increasingly isolated; and even more determined to report on what she saw. With a new foreword by the author about what has happened in Yemen since the book's initial publication, *Don't Be Afraid of the Bullets* is a fascinating and important debut by a talented young journalist.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found Laura's story of covering the revolution in Yemen very entertaining and insightful, as I did not know the details of Yemen's revolution prior to reading this book. As a woman who has also lived in the Middle East in her twenties as an aid worker, I could relate to many of her stories and feelings, and it made me want to get on the next flight back. Definitely recommend this book for anyone interested in how life is like when you are completely out of your element.

As an aspiring journalist, this book heavily inspired me to face my fears and pursue whatever goals and desires I may have. Kasinof describes in great detail her experiences stepping into a whole new and intimidating world, but facing it with bravery and tenacity. I would recommend this read to any aspiring journalist, or anybody in the process of travelling to a new country.

Kasinof does an excellent job portraying a young woman's professional and personal journey while telling a story of political upheaval that few people know anything about. The book is funny in a way I wasn't expecting, and shines honest light both on what it means to be a journalist and what it takes to make a revolution.

Everyone should read this book its simply incredible!

This is a well written book with no ambition to be academic. I follow Yemen on a daily basis so in that sense this book did not really add much new insights. What I found interesting is the way the story is told. Its a very personal account of the challenges a young aspiring journalist are faced with. The book has a few fast phased sections but at times its some what repetitive. Even if you are well read up on what is going on in Yemen this book adds value to most readers. I truly enjoyed it and I would recommend this book as a introduction to journalists and any one interested in the events in Yemen during 2011. If you are looking for a hard core well researched book on Yemen I suggest you buy "Why Yemen Matter" edited by Helen Lackner.

thanks

I couldn't put this book down! Ms. Kasinof is not only an excellent journalist who covered a situation

when no one else was brave enough to do so, her work also makes it easy and fun to learn about the Yemeni protest movement. Kasinof gives many examples that get to the heart of the beauty (and the sadness) of the Yemeni people and the situation they face - bad governance, a weak state, poverty, dwindling resources, etc. What emerges is a narrative that reveals that Yemen is far more than just the battleground against Al-Qa'ida depicted in the U.S. media. The author is honest about her own weakness and insecurities. She gives us some insight into the brave (and perhaps slightly deviant or naive!) young people who commit themselves to immersion in Arabic language, culture, and politics. Kasinof is frank about how little she knew going into the situation, as well as what it was like becoming one among a small minority of experts on Yemeni politics. In addition to being informative, the book was also funny. I particularly enjoyed her tale about becoming a Yemeni soap opera star! Full disclosure: I am an academic who studies the politics of the Middle East. That said, I would recommend Kasinof's book to any person interested in getting a taste of the complexity of Yemeni political issues. It is readable, funny, sad, and true.

Don't Be Afraid of the Bullets gives the reader insight into both the personal struggle of living in a conflict zone as a foreigner as well as the national struggle that Yemen faced during the revolution in 2011. It provides excellent context for the continuing conflict in Yemen today. Her writing style also brings the reader into the world of Yemeni culture, leaving you feeling connected to the country long after you've finished reading (even if you've never set foot there!). It's a must read for anyone interested in Yemen, journalism, conflict zones, or the Middle East more broadly.

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